

April 3, 1979

LR 43, 45

SPEAKER MARVEL: The request is the reference of LR 43 to the Banking Committee for public hearing. All those in favor of that motion vote aye, opposed no. Have you all voted? We're voting on the reference of LR 43 to the Banking Committee. It's a little hard to hear up here. Record the vote, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the motion, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried and the resolution is referred. LR 45.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 45, offered by Senator Hefner. (Read LR 45.) Mr. President, that resolution is on Page 1252 of the Journal.)

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I had this resolution written because I was visited by some sand and gravel operators in my area. I also received some phone calls and also visited with some County Commissioners. They told me that the United States Mine, Safety and Health Act that Congress passed two years ago in 1977 had really interrupted their operation. The small and large gravel pit operators are covered under this Act. What does this Act require these operators to do? Well, first it would require the pit operators to formally train their employees in pit safety. This school would be...or training would be 24 hours for new employees, and 8 hours refresher courses for the other employees. Now these sand and gravel pit operators operate on a seasonal basis. They have some part-time help and some full-time help, but they do have a large turnover, and of course when they have this it takes a lot of training to keep up on this. Operators in north-east Nebraska say that they have a good safety record, and I checked the whole state and the whole state has a good safety record, and so as one operator put it, the Mine Safety and Health Administration ordered him to station an employee where the road narrows to tell the truckers and other employees that the road narrows to one-way and that way they should wait until the other truck passed before another one could be...would meet them. He told him that he couldn't put up a sign to say this, because maybe this particular truck driver couldn't read it. Other operators say that it would mean training farmers and private truck drivers, because they come to the pit every so often and pick up their own gravel. And of course this new law increases